Please amend claims 1, 7, and 13 to read as follows. All claims now pending are provided below according to current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice.

1. (Currently Amended) An image input and output method in which image data is input from at least one image input section, and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing image processing of one image processing unit to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section and an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section;

managing execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job while the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is being executed, ~~before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished;~~

wherein image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit are input in the image input job.

2. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein image data is input and stored in an image storage section for the image

input job, and image data is read from the image storage section and output in the image output job.

3. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein (i) the image data obtained by reading the original image, (ii) image data developed from code data expressing an image, and (iii) the image data received from the external unit are input in the image input job.

4. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein image data is output to at least one of a printer section printing an image and a transmission section transmitting an image in the image output job.

5. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a plurality of management tables, which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

6. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 5, wherein the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job are independently controlled in said controlling step according to the information held in the plurality of management tables.

7. (Currently Amended) An image input and output apparatus comprising:
input means for inputting image data from at least one image input section;

output means for outputting image data to at least one image output section;

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters, which regulate image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means, wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image processing of said one image ~~image unit~~ processing unit expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by said obtaining means into an image input job in which image data is input by said image input means and an image output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job while the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is being executed ~~before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished~~,

wherein image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit are input by said input means in the image input job.

8. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored in said image

storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage

means is output by said output means in the image output job.

9. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according

to Claim 7, wherein (i) the image data obtained by reading the original image, (ii) image

data developed from code data expressing an image, and (iii) the image data received from

the external unit are input by said input means in the image input job.

10. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according

to Claim 7, wherein image data is output by said output means to at least one of a printer

section printing an image and a transmission section transmitting an image.

11. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according

to Claim 7, wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables,

which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

12. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according

to Claim 11, wherein said controlling means independently controls the execution of the

image input job and that of the image output job according to the information held in the

plurality of management tables.

14 13. (Currently Amended) An image processing system in which image data input by at least one image input means is output by at least one image output means comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters, which regulate image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and output of image data according to the image processing parameters obtained by said obtaining means,

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image processing of said one image processing unit expressed by the image ~~said image~~ processing parameters obtained by said obtaining means into an image input job in which image data is input by the image input means and an image output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job while the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is being executed ~~before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished~~,

wherein said image input means inputs image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit.

15 14. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 14 13, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored in said image

storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage

means is output by said output means in the image output job.

20 15. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 14 13, wherein said image input means inputs (i) the image data obtained by reading the

original image, (ii) image data developed from code data expressing an image, and (iii) the

image data received from the external unit.

16. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 14 13, wherein said image output means performs at least one of image printing according to

image data and image-data transmission.

17. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 14 13, wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables, which hold

information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

18. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim

17, wherein said controlling means independently controls the execution of the image input

job and that of the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of

management tables.

19. (Previously Presented) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one input section includes an interface section for connecting to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.

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20. (Previously Presented) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said at least one input section includes an interface section for connecting to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.

21. (Previously Presented) An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one input means includes an interface section for connecting to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.